

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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AMCONSUL LUANDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: HOUSE OF COMMONS EXTENDS RHODESIA SANCTIONS

SUMMARY: HOUSE OF COMMONS PASSED CONTINUATION ORDER ON
RHODESIAN SANCTIONS NOVEMBER 8 BY VOTE OF 124 TO 23.

BILL NOW GOES TO HOUSE OF LORDS, WHERE CONSERVATIVE PEERS
MAY HOLD MORE EXTENDED DEBATE, THOUGH IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKE-
LY THAT HOUSE OF LORDS WILL NOT CONCUR IN EXTENDING SANC-
TIONS. END SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN REVEALED DURING COMMONS
DEBATE NOVEMBER 8 HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING RHODESIA ALONG
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WITH OTHER PROBLEMS WHEN HE VISITS A NUMBER OF AFRICAN

COUNTRIES IN LATE DECEMBER AND JANUARY. HE TOLD A CONSERVATIVE QUESTIONER THAT HE WOULD NOT INCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA ON HIS TOUR AND, IN HIS STATEMENT, SAID HE DID NOT PROPOSE AT THIS TIME TO INCLUDE MOZAMBIQUE.

2. CALLAGHAN INDICATED THAT RHODESIA AND SMITH ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND BY FAST MOVING DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA SUCH AS POLITICAL CHANGES AND THE PORTUGUESE CHANGE OF COLONIAL POLICY. "SMITH HAS A PROBLEM AND IT WON'T GO AWAY." THIS WILL GET WORSE YEAR BY YEAR, CALLAGHAN SAID, UNTIL THE "ILLEGAL" REGIME MAKES PEACE WITH BRITAIN AND THE WORLD OR IT IS REPLACED BY A REGIME WHICH HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS. CALLAGHAN NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN AS THOROUGH AS THE UK IN IMPOSING SANCTIONS; HE HAD INTENSIFIED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION PARTICULARLY IN THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL AND THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS (EC COUNTRIES, JAPAN, PORTUGAL).

3. CALLAGHAN SAID TIME WAS NOW PAST WHEN ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED THROUGH A JOINT UK-RHODESIA INITIATIVE ALONE. UK WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE PROVIDED CERTAIN CONDITIONS (UNSPECIFIED) WERE MET. CALLAGHAN HELD LITTLE HOPE HIS SCHEDULED TRIP WOULD PRODUCE IMMEDIATE RESULTS. "LOGIC OF EVENTS," HE SAID, "WILL HAVE TO BE BORNE IN ON MR. SMITH FOR YET A FURTHER TIME BEFORE BRITAIN CAN TAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE."

4. COMMENT: WITH TOTAL VOTES CAST NUMBERING 147 OUT OF TOTAL SEATS IN COMMONS OF 635, IT IS APPARENT RHODESIAN SANCTIONS ARE NOT GENERALLY POPULAR. THERE ARE SOME WHO VOTED AGAINST OR ABSTAINED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY FEEL SANCTIONS ARE A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME. CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS ABSTAINED ON THE ADVICE OF SHADOW SPOKESMAN GEOFFREY RIPPOSE, WHO SAID THAT, REGRETTABLE AS THEY WERE, SANCTIONS AND THE STATUS QUO SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

5. THOSE MPS WHO VOTED AGAINST CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS TOTALLED 23 THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 29 IN 1972 AND 26 IN 1973. MOST OF THESE WERE TORIES (21), AND THERE WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2 ULSTER UNIONIST VOTES INCLUDING ENOCH POWELL. THREE CONSERVATIVES VOTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

SPIERS

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